

Town of Hampton



*Department of Resources and
Economic Development*



**Hampton Beach Area Commission
100 Winnacunnet Road
Hampton, New Hampshire 03842**

**Town Hall – Selectmen’s Meeting Room
Monthly Meeting –February 27, 2014
7:00 PM**

MINUTES

In Attendance:

John Nyhan, Chairman, Town of Hampton
Fran McMahon- Rockingham Planning Commission
Bob Preston- Hampton Chamber of Commerce
Bill Watson, Vice Chairman-NH Department of Transportation
Rick Griffin, Hampton Representative
Michael Housman, Operations Supervisor, DRED (Seacoast
Parks/Recreation)
Dean Merrill, Citizen at Large
Rich Reniere, Hampton Beach Village District

Excused: Chuck Rage, Hampton Beach Village District

Absent: 0

Other: Anne Marchand, Secretary

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:27 p.m.

Introduction of Commissioners.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Related to Agenda Items

Mr. Charles Preston, referring to the minutes of the January 23, 2014 meeting, asked if there has been any decision on the State Parks License Plates. Mr. Housman stated that DRED cannot make any decisions regarding the license plates, and that Legislation will have to be filed. Mr. Preston stated he is paying an extra \$85.00 per year for the plate which expires on March 1st. He asked for the HBACs support.

Mr. Nyhan said that there could be an amendment during the next legislative session. He recommended having a block of legislators sign the amendment; however, it would not go to the Legislature until the next session. He also recommended that the wording should be exact and everything should be in order before submitting. He also suggested that Mr. Preston bring the recommended bill to the HBAC for discussion. Mr. Preston said he would appreciate the HBAC efforts.

Mr. Preston also spoke to transportation issues, stating they are critical. He asked the Board to consider the Hampton River Bridge and putting a cat walk where the sidewalks are today. He recommended cantilevered sidewalks.

Mr. Nyhan commented that, if everything is moving along with the 10-year Transportation Plan, a new priority included was the Ocean Boulevard reconstruction; and, connected with that is the bridge. If the Bill is approved in June, some of the transportation resources may be available to do a feasibility analysis of the bridge.

Mr. Timothy Jones, 16 Dustin Avenue, commented on traffic issues and on Councilor Sununu's recommendation for Ocean Boulevard and the bridge, with those items to be left in the Master Plan. He noted that plans were changed in the usual fashion and offered congratulations with the process being shifted from Rockingham County.

With regard to the Right to Know Law, he stated that if an Attorney is to offer education on the law to the Commission (RSA 91-A), it should be done in a public session. He said there is no reason to go into a non-public session to discuss this law as it is counterproductive. He appealed to the Commission to reconsider and have this discussion on TV so those of the public who are not familiar with the law, can be educated.

Mr. Nyhan said, based on Mr. Jones' request, he will go back to the Attorney informing him there has been a request to go public; and, will get the Attorney's legal opinion. Further, he will ask how one does a public education session and how the general public can learn about the Right to Know Law and elements. Mr. Nyhan said he cannot guarantee a public presentation but will discuss this request.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF January 23, 2014 MINUTES

MOTION by Mr. Merrill to approve the January 23, 2014 Minutes, as edited.

SECOND by Mr. McMahon

8 in favor, 0 opposed

MOTION PASSED.

APPOINTMENTS: No appointments

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

1. Mr. Nyhan gave further explanation of the Master Plan Review. He reiterated that he has given assignments to the Commissioners on five areas of the Hampton Beach Master plan. These are to be reviewed over the next few months. He is expecting the subcommittees will share thoughts and activities that can be connected to the Master Plan. Proposals will be heard and Grants will be written. He further suggested going back to 2002 Plan to see if it is still applicable in 2014. Also, to see what has been accomplished and what still needs to be done.

He stated that while looking at the categories, it is hoped there will be a really good understanding of the area and what it has become. If any time in the future someone raises a question, there are Commissioners that have a good understanding of the particular elements of the Master Plan. It is important, he said, as Commissioners to be able to share with the rest of the Commission and general public, what people were thinking of in 2002, as well as accomplishments made and amendments needed. He also encouraged the subcommittees to consider new issues that may not have been considered in 2002 and should be done now.

Mr. Nyhan also reported the Master review will be an agenda item every month and the subcommittees will report, recommend, and identify how the HBAC will amend or change the Master Plan. He stated this is valuable work which will address key major elements of the Master Plan.

TRANSPORTATION GRANT

1. Consultant selection criteria (Mr. Watson)

Mr. Watson asked the Commission to remember what the \$300,000 in grant funding is intended to do, which is update transportation and infrastructure issues in the Master Plan.

As funding becomes available, areas such as Ocean Boulevard, the Bridge, and parking will be looked at with more design efforts and how far the funding will go. The rest of the Grant will be spent on priority areas, perhaps blending with other funds. Concerns and priorities will be brought to fruition. The \$300,000 will be, primarily for prep work, design work, and with environmental issues. This is where the funding will be of benefit.

Further, he stated there are regional priorities such as projects under construction with the newest projects being at risk. Ocean Boulevard was added into the Transportation Plan as a "study" which is a good step. There is rehabilitation money in the plan, which would, most likely, include the bridge. An engineering analysis is under way and it is fairly stable as a project in the 10-Year Plan.

Mr. Griffin left the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

TREASURER'S REPORT (Housman)

Mr. Housman reported there is no change since the last meeting, with the balance being \$19,765.75.

OLD BUSINESS

1. DRED Updates (Housman) Mr. Housman reported on the Sea Wall repairs which will begin March 10, 2014, and are expected to be complete on June 15, 2015. Work will begin on March 10, 2014 and suspend from June until September, 2014.

Mr. Nyhan expressed his thanks to DRED and the State Park's efforts for the sidewalk plowing, noting the positive reaction to the Bobcat from Haverhill to High Street.

2. Seacoast Supervisor Interviews (Merrill)

Mr. Merrill stated that the job was posted and DRED received 25 applications, which were reviewed by Human Resources. Twelve candidates were called and the department recommended six candidates to be interviewed. Interviews were held with the six candidates and the field was narrowed to two. Second interviews will be held March 5, 2014, and it is hopeful a decision can be made quickly and unanimously. It is hoped the Supervisor will be working by the end of this month.

3. "Right to Know" Training Seminar

Mr. Nyhan reported that the "Right to Know" Training Seminar will be held on April 24th at 6:00 p.m. prior to the regularly scheduled meeting. He will talk with the attorney regarding whether or not it will be a non-public meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Tiger Grant. Mr. Watson spoke of the new Tiger Grant. Three Webinars will be set up.

Mr. Nyhan will forward an e-mail to the Commissioners to review, which will include information on the process and time line.

2. Election of Officers. Mr. Nyhan reported that election of officers will be held this evening, as required. He requested nominations from the floor.

Secretary/Treasurer:

Mr. Nyhan nominated Michael Housman as Secretary/Treasurer

Mr. Preston seconded the nomination.

No additional nominations.

VOTE: 7 in Favor 0 Opposed of Michael Housman as Secretary/Treasurer

Vice Chairman:

Mr. Preston nominated Bill Watson as Vice Chairman

Mr. McMahon seconded the nomination.

No additional nominations.

VOTE: 7 in Favor 0 Opposed of Bill Watson as Vice Chairman

Chairman:

Mr. McMahon nominated John Nyhan as Chairman

Mr. Reniere seconded the nomination

No additional nominations.

VOTE: 7 In Favor 0 Opposed of John Nyhan as Chairman

ADJOURN: MOTION: Mr. Merrill moved to adjourn the meeting, Seconded by Mr. Watson

VOTE: 7 in favor, 0 opposed to Adjourn the meeting at 8:17 p.m. MOTION PASSED

Respectfully Submitted, Anne Marchand, Secretary